

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/677,890

Examiner

Leonid Shapiro

Applicant(s)

LONGE ET AL.

Art Unit

2629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 06/21/06 and 06/23/06 communications.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-37, 40-41, 43-64, 66-76, renumbered as 1-72.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


RICHARD HJERPE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-37,40-41,43-64,66-76 are allowed.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the cited references in combination with other limitations of claim teaches or suggests a text entry input system wherein a difference calculation module configured to output, for each act of pointing, various letters and associated weight values based upon factors including at least an angular difference between an actual direction indicated by the directional selector and pre-assigned directions of said letters, as disclosed in independent claim 1. The closest art (Goodman et al., Watanabe and Masui) disclose related systems, either singularly or in combination fail to anticipate or suggest these limitations obvious.

None of the cited references in combination with other limitations of claim teaches or suggests a text input method wherein for each user act of pointing the directional input device, preparing an output of candidate linguistic object subcomponents and associated probability weightings based upon factors including at least an angular difference between directions indicated by the directional input device and pre-assigned directions of said linguistic object subcomponents according to the predetermined mapping, as disclosed in independent claim 32. The closest art (Goodman et al., Watanabe and Masui) disclose related methods, either singularly or in combination fail to anticipate or suggest these limitations obvious.

None of the cited references in combination with other limitations of claim teaches or suggests a text entry input module, wherein a calculation module to apply the predetermined relationship to each user-submitted direction entered via the direction indicator to provide an output, said output including: (1) multiple predicted linguistic object subcomponents including a group of linguistic object subcomponents whose assigned angular directions are nearest the user-submitted directions, and (2) for each predicted linguistic object subcomponent, an associated proximity weighting proportional to an angular difference between the user-submitted direction and the angular direction assigned to the predicted linguistic object subcomponent, as disclosed in independent claim 63-64,66. The closest art (Goodman et al., Watanabe and Masui) disclose related moduls, either singularly or in combination fail to anticipate or suggest these limitations obvious.

None of the cited references in combination with other limitations of claim teaches or suggests a text input method wherein the computer determining angular similarity between each actual pointing direction and radial directions of different characters in the mapping, and using the determined angular similarity to compute different possible combinations of intended characters that could form the intended word and their associated likelihoods, and presenting a list of potential matching words to the user, where the presentation favors potential matching words according to factors including an aggregate angular similarity of constituent characters of a potential matching word to the actual pointing directions, as disclosed in independent claim 76.

Art Unit: 2629

The closest art (Goodman et al., Watanabe and Masui) disclose related methods, either singularly or in combination fail to anticipate or suggest these limitations obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Telephone Inquire


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leonid Shapiro whose telephone number is 571-272-7683. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 a.m. to 5 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Hjerpe can be reached on 571-272-7691. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2629

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

LS
06.06.07



RICHARD HJERPE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600